

MAIL SUPPLEMENT TO THE HONGKONG DAILY PRESS.

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND, 1886.

OPEN DISCUSSION IN THE COUNCIL COMMITTEES.

I.

At the meeting of the Legislative Council this afternoon the Hon. A. P. MacEwan will ask two questions and move a resolution. The questions are—(1) "How many sittings of the Law Committee have taken place since the Committee was formed in 1883?" and (2) "How many sittings of the Public Works Committee have taken place since the Committee was formed in 1883?" We believe some four or five sittings of the Law Committee were held within a short time of its formation, and with regard to the Public Works Committee it has held few meetings, and certainly never presented any report. If neither committee ever meets again the colony will be no better, for they are both utterly useless, each occupying the position of a fifth wheel to a coach. The Law Committee of the Legislative Council must not be confounded with the Commission appointed to revise the Laws and Ordinances of Hongkong—abody from which great things were expected but which distinguished itself at the outset by presenting as its first effort a Bill for the harassment of the Press, one of the most ridiculous measures ever passed by a Legislative body in modern times. The Law Committee of the Legislative Council was appointed, not to revise the existing Laws and Ordinances, but to examine and report upon the Bills introduced in Council. What advantage it was expected would be derived from submitting the Bills to such a body we are not aware, but it is certainly a fact that in actual practice no benefit has been derived and the committee has ceased to exist except in name. The few reports it presented to the Council ran somewhat in this form—"The Law Committee recommend the following Bills." Now, it is for the Council as a whole, not for a small committee, to pronounce on the principle of the measures brought before it. No individual member of the Council could feel himself in the least bound or assisted by the opinion of such a committee. The Council cannot be affected by the procedure in Council with respect to the disposal of public funds. In the Imperial Parliament there is no committee analogous to the Law Committee of the Hongkong Legislative Council. If Mr. MacEwan had asked the Government to state the duties of the Law Committee, they would have had some difficulty in giving him an answer. In the Standing Orders of the Council it is provided that there shall be a Law Committee, but not a word is said as to the duties of the Committee, and in the orders relating to the progress of Bills there is no mention made of their reference to such a body. It is, of course, open to the Council to refer any particular Bill to a select committee, as was done for instance with great advantage in the case of the Religious Ceremonies and Festivals Ordinance, but a Standing Law Committee is an absurdity.

The Public Works Committee is as useless as the Law Committee. The Standing Orders of the Council provide that there shall be such a committee, but say not a word as to its functions, which as a matter of fact are nil. When the Committee was instituted the idea was, we believe, that when any extraordinary public work was projected, for which a special vote would be required, the Committee should report upon the scheme. It was never intended that it should in any way exercise a supervision over the Public Works Department in its ordinary routine work or in reference to any project for which a vote had already been taken. When the Council has once voted funds the control of the expenditure passes to the Executive, and the Legislative Council has no further say in the matter, which of course any member is always at liberty to ask: "What are the public works projected, they must necessarily be submitted to the Finance Committee before a vote can be recommended, and as the Finance Committee is none too large for the purpose of pronouncing on the utility or otherwise of any project it will be seen that there is literally no work left for the Public Works Committee to do. If in any case it should be deemed desirable that a particular project should be investigated by a smaller committee it would obviously be more expedient to refer it to a special committee selected on account of the members' special knowledge of the subject than to an invertebrate body like the standing Public Works Committee, the members of which are appointed at the beginning of the session as a matter of form and who probably forget next day which committee it is they have been appointed to and never know who their supposed colleagues are. If any useful work is expected from such a body as the latter, the first step must be to define its functions, so that the members themselves may know what these are. The form of appointing a Law Committee and a Public Works Committee should, according to the Standing Orders, be gone through this afternoon.

The resolution of which Mr. MacEwan has given notice is a matter of more practical importance than his questions. It is, indeed, of supreme importance, and the community is indebted to the hon. gentlemen for having formally brought the matter forward at the earliest opportunity. The resolution is—"That in future all matters of public interest, and more particularly the voting of Public Funds, be discussed openly in Council, and not, as heretofore, at private meetings of the Finance Committee." The vote on this resolution will be, we venture to predict, unanimously in the affirmative. The idea of allowing eleven gentlemen, no matter who they may be, to vote away the public funds in secret conclave is one that will not bear serious examination for a moment. The tendency of late has been to make the Finance Committee everything and the Legislative Council nothing more than a court of record, so far as the public expenditure is concerned. If it be decided that all questions of expenditure are to be discussed in public, as we think it must be, the Finance Committee may as well be left to go the way of the other two standing Committees. The proper course would be, when any sum is asked for by the Government, for the Council to resolve itself into a Committee of supply or of ways and means, such Committee being as open and public as and much as the Council itself as the Council in Committee Bill. The origin of the Finance Committee was explained by the Hon. P. Ryrie on a recent occasion. The unofficial members wished to meet together to consider the estimates, in order, presumably, to agree upon a joint course of action. The Government took objection to this proceeding, and the outcome of the discussion which ensued was the appointment of the Finance Committee—that is, the whole of the official element was imported into what were intended to be the

private meetings of the unofficial members. It is possible some similar difficulty may arise again, in which case we must look to the unofficial members not to allow themselves to be a second time outflanked. The unofficial members of the Hongkong Legislative Council have a much right to meet together for the purpose of agreeing upon joint action on any question as have the members of the various parties in the House of Commons, where party meetings of the members are a recognized institution.—August 28.

II.

Mr. MacEwan did not succeed in carrying his motion in the Legislative Council on Friday as all matters of public interest, and more particularly the voting of public funds, should be discussed openly in Council and not, as heretofore, at private meetings of the Finance Committee. The officials opposed a solid phalanx to the assault and carried with them the compliant Mr. Wong Sun-sui. All the other unofficial members voted in favour of publicity. But Mr. MacEwan's efforts, notwithstanding the adverse vote, have not been fruitless. They drew from more than one official an admission that more publicity is desirable, and an indication of how this might be arrived at. The Chief Justice thinks the question of the Loan was a proper one to be considered in private. We cannot say, more especially when we remember that the suggestion that the Loan could be more safely placed locally than in London came in the first instance from the Press and not from the Committee. But the Chief Justice says Mr. Jackson said some things about the Loan in private which he would not have said in public. It may be so, but we hold that the advantages of public discussion outweigh the "hundred times" any disadvantage which may be, and we question very much whether Mr. Jackson would not have been able to express his opinion just as forcibly in a public discussion as in a private one, even if he had thought it necessary to avoid mentioning name or a few details as to the disposable funds of Public Companies. Then we come to the Stamp Ordinance. Can any measure be conceived more fit for public discussion? What can there be, but of a private nature? But, in effect, says the Colonial Treasurer, "if we had discussed it in public we would have harrowed the feelings of the less scrupulous of all classes." We are in the habit of defrauding the Government, whenever they have the opportunity of doing so, and about whom we had to make some very outspoken remarks." Comment on this is unnecessary. The official case was hopelessly lost in argument but won in the voting. It will now be said that the unofficial members of the Council to take advantage of the procedure which was pointed out on Friday in order to secure such publicity as they can for the discussions on the disposal of the public funds except when it is clear some special and weighty reason renders privacy more desirable.—August 30.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The following are extracts from the minutes of the Finance Committee held on the table—
15th July, 1886.

Mr. MacEwan moved the Committee to present behalf of the Chamber of Commerce and the public generally against the meeting of the Finance Committee being held in private.

After some discussion, Mr. MacEwan proposed, and Mr. Ryrie seconded, the following resolution:

"That this meeting be adjourned until the question is decided as to whether the meetings of the Finance Committee should be held open doors, and that the Official Members of the Committee be requested to attend a special meeting of the Legislative Council to decide the matter."

The motion was carried by 5 to 1.

The Committee then adjourned sine die.

20th July, 1886.

The Committee met this day pursuant to the resolution of the Hon. Mr. Ryrie the Officer Administering the Government.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

THE ACTING GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

Mr. Ryrie.—Hon. Members of the Legislative Council, when I closed this session on the 21st May last I announced to you that it would be probable I should have to call a special meeting of Council about the middle of September for the purpose of considering the estimates for next year. I find myself, however, compelled to summon a special meeting at an earlier period and for a totally different purpose. Since the close of the last session I have received instructions from the Secretary of State to review the Financial Estimates of the Colony, and I have passed a similar Ordinance in respect of the new line of German mail steamer. The French Mail Steamer Ordinance is only passed for a year, and I have no authority to renew it without special instructions. These instructions arrived late for me to introduce the Bill in the last Session, and as the Ordinance was not passed, I have been compelled to summon this special meeting under these two Ordinances for the first time. I regret very much that I am not able to profit by this opportunity to lay the estimates before the Council, but they have taken more time than I expected in preparation, but I think they will be ready about the middle of next month. Since our last meeting I have invited to this Board three new members, two of whom are to represent the official members who are absent, and I have followed the example of Sir George Bowen when the Registrar-General was asked in his past in appointing the Harbour Master. I hope all the members will join with us in offering a cordial welcome to our new colleagues, who I have no doubt will be the shortest, albeit, be of the greatest assistance to us. (Hear, hear.)

PAPERS.

The following papers were laid on the table—Correspondence relating to the late Mr. E. B. Johnson, a member of the Council (which he already had published), the report of the Commission appointed to consider the question of ecclesiastical accommodation in Victoria Gap; and correspondence respecting the German Mail Steamer; a despatch respecting the withdrawal of the French Mail Steamer; and a despatch respecting the first meeting of the Finance Committee.

Extracts from Governor's Speech of 10th October, 1885, and from the speech of state of 12th Oct., 1885.

Read also the following Minute by His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government—

Mr. Ryrie.—

I think that the Honorable Member who made the motion in Finance Committee on the 18th instant, its meeting should be held in open doors, has in mind the object of the Finance Committee.

The object of the Finance Committee, as stated in the opening speech of Sir George Bowen, on 1st February, 1884, is, to examine, at the first instance, the financial estimates of the Colony.

It is with the view of saving much valuable time that the Honorable Member was appointed to the Ecclesiastical Committee.

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The Hong Kong Daily Press.

No. 8848 號八十四百九十八第

日五月初八年二十號

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND, 1886.

四年禮 號二月九英港香

PRICE \$2½ PER MONTH

SHIPTON.

ARRIVALS.

August 31, KONG-BOENG, British str., 862, R. Jones, Bangkok 25th August, General-YUEN FAT HUNG.

August 31, DORIS, German steamer, 771, W. Zetrahan, Manila 28th August, Coconut-WITZEL & Co.

September 1, CANTON, British steamer, 1,110, Brumner, Whampoa 1st September, General-JARDINE, MATTHESON & Co.

September 1, ODER, German steamer, 1,892, F. Pfleider, Shanghai 29th August, Mails and General-MUEHLERS & Co.

September 1, ELSA, German steamer, 552, Kuchert, Tamsui 26th August, and Amoy 30th General-C. M. S. N. Co.

September 1, THAER, British steamer, 820, F. D. Goddard, Foochow 27th August, Amoy 23rd, and Swatow 31st, August, General-Douglas LAPRAIK & Co.

September 1, PATHAN, British steamer, 1,726, James Rowley, Sydney 6th August, General-ADAMSON, BELL & Co.

September 1, STEPPIN, German steamer, 1,815, F. Warkus, Yokohama 22nd August, and Nagasaki 27th, Mais and General-MUEHLERS & Co.

September 1, SALTIE, French steamer, 323, Th. Leroux, Haiphong 29th August, General-A. R. MABY.

September 1, ESKIM, British g.b., from Canton.

CLEARANCES.

AT THE HARBOR MASTER'S OFFICE.

1ST SEPTEMBER.

Frej, Danish str., for Haiphong. Peking, British str., for Shanghai. Cicer, British str., for Kuchintou. Proprietary, British str., for Saigon. Crusader, British str., for Saigon. Namou, British str., for Swatow. Alvin, German str., for Haiphong. Gengary, British str., for Shanghai.

DEPARTURES.

September 1, DAEANDAE, British steamer, for London.

September 1, LEONORA, Austrian str., for Havre.

September 1, CICERO, British str., for Kuchintou.

September 1, NAMOA, British str., for Coast Ports.

September 1, GLENGARRY, British steamer, for Shanghai.

September 1, CLARA, German str., for Swatow.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per KONG BOENG, str., from Bangkok—30 Chinese.

Per ODER, str., from Shanghai—For Hong Kong—1. Chinese—for Singapore—Mr. & Mrs. Tengyuan. For Macao—Mr. & Mrs. Graham. For Manila—Miss M. M. Warkus, Miss J. Moro and J. Warkus.

Per ELSA, str., from Tamsui, 22—10 Chinese.

Per THAER, str., from Coast Ports—Mrs. Hance and family—Mrs. Boyd, Miss Kietkiet and Miss Quelch, and 218 Chinese.

Per SALTIE, str., from Haiphong—Mr. Therville and 22 Chinese.

Per STEPPIN, str., from Japan—Mrs. Dunn and 1 Chinese.

DEPARTED.

Per Gengary, str., for Shanghai—Mr. A. Moes.

TO DEPART.

Per IRROUADY, str., from Hong Kong—For Saigon—Mr. Delson, and 3 Chinese. For Singapore—Lieut. E. R. Simonds, R.A., Sergeant A. Crawford, For Colombo—Brothers Adria and Joseph. For Macao—Misses Vigne, Therville, Beauz, and Soe. From Shanghai—For Macao—Misses Gammie, John Deth, D. Jackson, Byers, and Mason.

REPORTS.

The French steamer SALTIE, from Haiphong 24th August, reports had weather in Tropic Sea, high winds and fine weather in China Sea.

The British steamer KONG BOENG, from Bangkok 23rd August, reports had moderate W.S.W. winds and fine weather to Pulo Ohi; thence to port variable winds and fine weather.

The German steamer ODER, from Shanghai 29th August, reports fine weather; the night foggy. On the 30th aft spoke the str. STEPHEN, in lat. 25.5° N., long. 120° E., from Japan for Hong Kong.

The British steamer PERTH, from Australia, reports Sydney on the 8th August, proceeded to Cambridge Gulf with 300 digests of cattle and 90 head of cattle. On the 9th August, left on the 23rd and proceeded through the Malacca Passage to China. Had fine weather all the way.

The British steamer THAER, from Foochow 27th August, Amoy 28th, and Swatow 29th August. Went to the high winds and bad weather in Amoy str. Tengyuan. A French German man-of-war Bismarck and Coriol, and str. BENGAL. In Amoy str. Swatow, str. LEEZONG, CHIANGMING, MENGTING, FORTIGER, LOIRE, INFERIEURE, FALKENBERG, and Pechili.

FOR SALE.

TRICHOID COTTAGE PIANOS, COMPLETE IRON FRAMING and PARENT METAL PIN PIECE, with all the latest improvements. PRICE \$240.

Payable also by Monthly Instalments from 15 Dollars, if required.

Hongkong, 1st January, 1886. 1772

FOR SALE.

C HAMPAGNE "MONOPOLE."

—HEIDSEICK & CO.—

MONOPOLE RED SEAL (medium dry).

Do. EMO FOIL "Spc." (dry).

Do. GOLD FOIL "Dx" (extra dry).

ARNHOLD, KARBERG & CO., Hongkong, January, 1887.

NOTICES OF FIRMS.

NOTICE.

ON and after this date, until further notice, the Undersigned will take Charge of the Business of the HONGKONG AND CHINA GAS COMPANY, LIMITED.

By ORDER OF THE DIRECTORS,

W. S. BAMBSEY,

Acting Manager.

Hongkong, 30th August, 1886. 1778

NOTICE.

HAVING SOLD my Business to Messrs. GIELET, ERK, & CO. of Shanghai, I thank the Government of Nanking and Coast Ports for their kind favours and I hope they will continue their Patronage to the New Firm, F. VINCENT.

NOTICE.

IN reference to the above Notice we beg to advise that we have a new Company—HONGKONG AND COAST PORTS— that will supply to Old and New Customers.

Showly we will be able to supply FRENCH BREAD of the Best Quality.

Mr. J. BOISSELET will conduct the Business and Sign our First per procuration.

GUILLIE FRESHIES.

SUCCESSES OF F. VINCENT, No. 8, Queen's Road Central, Hongkong, 1st January, 1886. 1779

NOTICE.

THEOPHILE ROEDERER & CO., CHAMBERLAIN, CANTER BLANCHE DOREE, EXTRA RESERVE CUVEE.

In Case of 2 dozen pints..... 518.

In Case of 1 dozen quarts..... 518.

Apply to

ARNHOLD, KARBERG & CO., Agents.

Hongkong, 10th August, 1886.

INTIMATIONS.

BANKS.

AUCTION.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE.

THE HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOW ON SALE.

1886 Edition of
CHRONICLE & DIRECTORY
 for China, Japan, Korea, Philippines,
 Siam, Cochinchina, Borneo,
 Straits Settlements, Malaya States, &
 (TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL ISSUE).
 The COMPLETE EDITION WITH TERRITORIES
 PLATE, &c., pp. 1-132. \$5.
 THE SMALLER EDITION pp. 752. \$3.
 The *Vade Meus* for every Resident in the
 Far East, from Penang to Vladivostok.

INTIMATION.

NOTICE.
 GARDEN SEEDS.
 SEASON 1886-87.

THE following SEEDS—required for Sowing in August and September—can now be supplied, viz.—

CELERI.

CYCLAMEN, CINERARIA

Our First Shipment of ASSORTED VEGETABLE AND FLOWER SEEDS will be supplied Free of Charge, on and after 1st inst.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

Honkong, 24th August, 1886.

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The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, SEPTEMBER 2ND, 1886.

The Ordinance giving the status of men-of-war to the steamers of the North German Lloyds, passed at the last meeting of the Legislative Council, runs as follows:—"The steam packets of the North German Lloyds, subsidised by the Imperial German Government to carry mails to and from this Colony, shall, when in the ports of this Colony, be considered and treated as vessels of war, and shall be entitled to all the rights, privileges, and immunities of vessels of war, and shall not for any cause be diverted from their special duties, or be liable to seizure or detention by order of any Court or Judge." Another clause saves the rights of the Crown, and the third and last clause provides for the expiry of the Ordinance on the 1st September, 1887. The Hon. P. Ryves strongly opposed the passing of the Bill without some addition specifying conditions; but without effect, no one seconding his amendment or speaking in support of it. The conditions gentleman wished to have inserted in the Bill were those set out in Lord Rotherham's despatch to the German Ambassador, namely, that the Imperial Consular Officers and the Commanders of the North German Lloyds' steamers and the Agents of the Company in all British ports of call are to give all necessary facilities to the local authorities in relation to Customs regulations and to judicial process, and not to claim to exercise the privilege in question to the detriment of public justice or of private rights. We think Mr. Ryves was justified in claiming the insertion of these conditions in the Bill, for, as he pertinently asked, what is the use of passing a Bill giving the vessels the status of men-of-war when what is intended to be given is something very different? Practically no difficulty is likely to arise because the conditions have already been placed on record in the despatch of Lord Rotherham, and any attempt to ignore them would entail the non-renewal of the Ordinance on its expiry, the intention being that it should be renewed from year to year. None the less is it to be regretted that the Bill was not differently framed. The ground on which the German Government asked for the privilege is stated as follows in Count Bismarck's memorandum:—"The steamers will carry the official mail, for which they will receive a certain subsidy from the Imperial German Government. Besides, the steamers are bound to transport, free of cost, criminals from abroad to Germany, as when the steamer touches at the British Colonial port, might demand a hearing before a British Judge, thus delaying the course of law and preventing the prompt delivery of the mail, the Imperial Government lays great stress on these mail steamers being looked upon as in some sense men-of-war." This is a perfectly reasonable request, and one which it would have been absurd to refuse, but Count Bismarck simply asks that the vessels may be looked upon as "in some sense" men-of-war; from which it is clear he did not ask nor expect that the local Ordinance gives. The object is simply to avoid detention of the steamers by criminals on board appealing to the local courts. An Ordinance providing for this would have been a sensible piece of legislation, which might without discussion have been extended to any mail steamers for which the privilege was asked by their Government. There is no other object to be secured by giving them the status of men-of-war, because it is not to be supposed there is any wish or intention to evade just claims; and in Admiralty cases the detention of a vessel can always be obviated by giving bonds. Lord Rotherham says:—"From the time when the French line of the Messageries Maritimes first began to run to India, and China difficulties have constantly arisen in the application of Art. V. of the French Convention by reason of the Commanders of the steamers of that Company insisting with the support of French Consuls upon exercising the privileges conferred by it in their strictest sense, and as to defeat the course of criminal justice and to deprive in certain cases private individuals of their civil remedies." A voluminous correspondence has taken place between the British and French Governments arising out of the conflicts which have occurred at Hongkong, Singapore, and Ceylon between the judicial authorities and the Messageries Maritimes. Indeed Her Majesty's Government would have been compelled to determine the Postal Convention with France by notice under Art. XXXVII, were it not that the more recent instructions which appear to have been given to the Commanders of the French Postal steamers

have prevented a renewal of the complaints of the Colonial Government." In legislating for the mail steamers of another country, and where there was no convention binding the Government, it would have been obviously more sensible to give exactly what is wanted and what we are prepared to concede than to give a general privilege on a more or less loose understanding that it is not to be availed of to its full extent. This would have afforded a precedent also for giving the French steamers a position in law satisfactory to all parties instead of trusting wholly to the complaisance of the French Government or officials that no difficulty shall arise.

The German frigate *Bismarck* and corvette *Carlo* were in Foochow on the 27th ultimo.

The British steamer *Fulham*, which arrived here yesterday from Sydny, took 300 diggers and 90 horses to the Cambridge Gulf, and through order to proceed to Shanghai for the representatives of the Model Settlement to practice in, and it will leave by the *Caron* to-day. It is stated that Shanghai is not only ready to row a four-oared race against the representatives of Hongkong, but if champion can be found, a single sculling and a double sculling match also to practice with vice-lieut. Lawrie Kennedy, J. Sampson, and Lockhart, and it is probable he will take them all to Shanghai, so as to have a spare man in case of need. Who will be the four selected men remains to be seen. If a single sculling match is rowed Hongkong will undoubtedly have its best sculler on the spot in Glass, and in double sculling he and Lawrie are about as good representatives as the Club could turn out, for they are thoroughly well together, the same stroke, and in capital style.

Our readers are reminded that M. Remondy's first farewell concert will take place at the Theatre Royal, City Hall, to-night. An attractive programme has been drawn up, and His Excellency the Acting Governor has signed his intention of being present. M. Remondy will play some of his most charming pieces.

Yesterday morning Mr. H. Fournier, storekeeper, Queen's-road, charged his shaff, Mr. Fournier, with embroking money, the property of his employer, to the amount of about \$300. Mr. Fournier has very properly conducted some small investigations, and has discovered that the cause of fraud owing to his being determined to prosecute the man, whom he accordingly caused to be arrested. The case will come up for hearing before Mr. Mitchell-Innes to-day.

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AMOY.

The *Amoy Gazette* chronicles, with regret, the death of Captain R. Hankinson, of the British bark *Golden Star*, and formerly commander of the British Consular steamer *Sequoia*, which occurred at Keppel Roads at 7 a.m. on 7th August. His funeral took place at 4 p.m. the following day at the Koolangoo Cemetery, and was largely attended by his numerous friends.

TAIWAN.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

19th August.

As reports from the North and South of China reach here of the terrible heat which has been experienced this year, it may be interesting for our readers to compare notes with us; so I give you our readings from 15th July to date. They contrast very favourably with Hankow readings to the 1st instant—

July	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min. Wind.
15	80	90	10	85	70
16	80	90	10	85	70
17	80	90	10	85	70
18	80	90	10	85	70
19	80	90	10	85	70
20	80	90	10	85	70
21	80	90	10	85	70
22	80	90	10	85	70
23	80	90	10	85	70
24	80	90	10	85	70
25	80	90	10	85	70
26	80	90	10	85	70
27	80	90	10	85	70
28	80	90	10	85	70
29	80	90	10	85	70
30	80	90	10	85	70
31	80	90	10	85	70

Reading for a month or eight days, the maxima are quite agreeable. I should advise those who can't stand the heat on the mainland to come over here and charter one of the many empty houses. Talibots having mostly migrated to Amoy, thirty miles higher up the coast, because it is nearer Tianwan. But Amoy is a wretched place, and has no harbour whatever. In very rough weather you can land at all you have to do is to bathe on the beach, which is a fine place. The high state of the water, the river Peiho has simply overflowed their bed, and their whole village is under water. The fine old bridge at Amoy has collapsed, so that the French and English have to go to the French consulate, which is afterwards to be occupied by the Comptoir d'Escompte de Paris, has three or four feet of water all round it, and three houses facing therewith on the French boundary, surrounded by water. They have been built by a Russian here, instigated by the French Priests to try and outwit the British settlement and the houses therewith. There is no bridge or pier, and the only way to get across is to go by boat (Pleasure boat) that has not three, to four feet of water on it, and on the lots not filled eight to ten feet of water; should the river make a breach in their bed, which is quite possible, every house on it will have to come down. This is the third or fourth time.

We have had very heavy rains of late and sometimes at a standstill; all the canals are so full of water that the boats cannot get through the bridges and there is no cargo arriving. The *Caribou* was wayward at the Passengers on her last trip over. We haven't had the usual typhoon here yet, though.

NINPO.

23rd August.

This seems to be a flourishing year for Ningpo, as we are hearing quite a number of vessels arriving or expected to arrive. The *Mary Stuart* dropped down the river on Saturday and got outside this morning. The *John Carl*, from Takow, arrived here on Saturday afternoon. The *Auto-Indi* with *Helena* and *Portia* soon to follow, and the *White Star* steamer *City of New York* with coal has arrived will soon arrive. The *Amoy* is expected from Shantou. A Hongkong steamer is also expected. You will see from this, that we are having quite a rush of business.

A serious affray occurred in the vicinity of Tai-chow, between two parties of proselytists. It is customary for these parties to carry arms, as they can not be sure of the safety of their persons, and the result of the dispute was that one party, the *Protestants*, were beaten, but more likely to prevent rival parties from attempting to carry it off. This might have been the cause in this case, or the rival parties might have met, and one party had refused to give way to the other. However the results of the *affray* were a few killed and a number wounded.—*Memory Correspondent.*

SHANGHAI.

The *Shanghai Mercury* says:—It is with deep regret that we have to record the death, from general debility, at the ripe age of 62 years, of Dr. L. C. H. H. H. Baudin, S.J., which occurred on the 9th instant, at the 21st August, at the Jesuit Builders adjoining St. Joseph's Church, French Concession.

A German daily paper is projected in Shanghai. It is stated that it will probably be named "Der Ostasiatische Lloyd" (*East Asiatic Lloyd*), a rather suitable name, if we take into consideration the fact that the appearance of the paper is copied in every way with the *Far Eastern Lloyd*, a German newspaper belonging to the North German Lloyd.

Le Soir de Shanghai learns that five Chinese men-of-war were despatched to Japan on the 24th August from Tientsin, and two cruisers now in Korean waters have received orders to join them; this will bring the number of Chinese men-of-war cruising about Nanshak up to fifteen. Now that the *Amoy* says, certainly not least, that China claims a very important place in the Japanese Government.

The *Currier* says:—Another palpable indication that China is progressing in the steps that are now being taken to extend the Customs Postal Service to the Pusan ports, as one of the first steps towards the establishment of a National Post Office for China. Rumours have been current for a long time now that the new enterprise, and it is now generally well known that the Minister in Peking has been addressed officially on the subject, and it has been hinted that about a week ago the lately appointed Postal Commissioner of the Customs sent a letter to the Shanghai Municipal Council suggesting the discontinuance of the local Post. The letter is now under the consideration of the Council.

The *Shanghai Mercury* states that Prince Chan has received many applications from abroad which foreigner desire employment in the Chinese Navy. The Prince had all the applications carefully translated for his personal, and also made strict inquiries concerning the applicants. The *Hu-pen* is of opinion, that although China has happily selected foreign servants, such as General Gordon, Sir Robert Hart, Dr. Martin, and others, who have rendered valuable services, the future applicants for the Chinese Government services should be secured by the Government of the country to which they belong, for at present, it is a well known fact that the Chinese Government require many foreign servants, and some of the applicants have proved worthless, after they were engaged.

The *Shanghai Mercury* says:—The sad accident which occurred about a month ago, according to the capsule in the *China Cross*, of a boat which contained some native female operators to Messrs. Russell & Co's Silk Filature, is no doubt, still fresh in the minds of our readers. The gallantry displayed on that occasion by Mr. Elva, the Superintendent of the Filature, will be equally well remembered. Attracted to the spot by the cries of the drowning woman, Mr. Elva plunged into the stream, and with the assistance of a Chinaman, was able to rescue in 15 out of the 18 women from a watery grave. We are now informed that the Tao-tai of Shanghai, the first having been brought to his notice, sent Mr. Elva a letter expressing his appreciation of the gallantry displayed by him on the occasion, and announcing his intention of conferring upon him the Silver Medal for Merit, *King Kai*, to mark his sense of such noble and courageous conduct.

JICHANG.

18th August.

Yesterday the weather has been terribly hot and unbearable, on the 15th and 16th inst. the thermometer registered 103° in the shade. To-day we have a delightful change in a northerly breeze which cools the atmosphere considerably and the thermometer has dropped to 90°. Native boats serving from up river to 90° and small boats carrying packages of silk etc. Large junks are unable to move consequent on the strong current. The river has been rising steadily for several days, but has now started to go down, falling 40 inches in the past 24 hours. The steamer *King-hong* arrived here on the 17th, and leaves *to-night*. She takes about 300 bags of silk and several hundred packages of other cargo.

The *Amoy* which carried so many Bibles and tracts about Szechuan and is well known amongst the natives for kicking stands over in the streets of Ching-king, is at present at Ichang in care of the Rev. Mr. Dowley, who is well known for his kind hospitality. I understand this sacred animal is to make a journey to the sea coast and that Mr. McMillan is to conduct it safe to its destination. The owner of this noble animal is the Rev. Mr. Dowley and Mr. Nishol and children arrived here to-day for native boat from Ching-king, and are to continue on to Hankow.—*Courier Correspondent.*

The *Shan-pao* of the 24th August gives the following extract from the letter of a correspondent at Lichang who, it is said, is well acquainted with the circumstances of the misunderstanding between the people and the Christian converts at Ching-king. After a long time he has to present further disorders, but this militia was not sufficiently strong in numbers to guard every point, so there were further encounters, resulting in several deaths and much destruction of property. The foreign merchants now agree to retire from the narrow street where they had established themselves and by which the Ching-

people set so much store; and they understand that to pull no man from his post, the Chinese also have made a provision for holding the people to be believed in and followers that (i.e. the Christian) doctrin. Those who have recently become converts are called upon to wash their hands of it to no more to church and to give up conforming to these practices. It is probable therefore that in future Missionaries will find little opposition here, and the Scotch authorities will be spared the deciding of many troublesome cases.

TIEN-TSIN.

16th August.

The freshets are still strong, and the river has overflowed its banks both above and below this place. Steamers are still anchoring below the Everlasting Bend. They are said to be coming up on account of the strong freshets having been the cause of forming mud-banks. The Taku and Tung and Lighters here know the changes in the river, as they are running their boats backwards and forwards every day; they are said to tow lighters up drawing ten feet.

17th August.

The Desanale Portable Railways plant, which has been brought up to this place, will be laid from the English settlement to Hsin-chou. The English and French portion of Hsin-chou is to be given to the French, and the Chinese to the English. The *Amoy* came to inspect it personally as soon as it was finished.

21st August.

The Desanale Portable Railways plant, which has been brought up to this place, will be laid from the English settlement to Hsin-chou. The English and French portion of Hsin-chou is to be given to the French, and the Chinese to the English. The *Amoy* came to inspect it personally as soon as it was finished.

23rd August.

Our neighbours the French and those who have bought land, or are building or renting houses in the French settlement are in a fine plight. The high state of the water, the river Peiho has simply overflowed their bed, and their whole village is under water. The fine old bridge at Amoy has collapsed, so that the French and English have to go to the French consulate, which is afterwards to be occupied by the Comptoir d'Escompte de Paris, has three or four feet of water all round it, and three houses facing therewith on the French boundary, surrounded by water. They have been built by a Russian here, instigated by the French Priests to try and outwit the British settlement and the houses therewith. 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